



Council for a
Better Nevada
CBN

2016
Annual Report



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Mission Statement

The Council for a Better Nevada is an organization of concerned citizens who seek to improve the quality of life in Nevada.

Our intention is to identify and engage in community issues whose outcomes will greatly affect the lives of Nevadans.

By bringing together talent, resources and leadership from private, public and non-profit sectors, our goal is to assist in developing solutions to issues which will create a sustainable, healthy and prosperous Nevada community.

The Directors

**JOHN
RITTER**

CBN
Chairman

Focus Property Group
CEO



**JAY
BARRETT**

JaBarrett Company
President



**THOMAS
KAPLAN**

CBN
Vice Chairman

The Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group
Senior Managing Partner



**MICHAEL
BROWN**

Barrick Gold Corp.
Executive Director USA



**CURTIS
MYLES**

CBN
Secretary

Las Vegas Monorail
President & CEO



**MARYKAY
CASHMAN**

Cashman Equipment Co.
CEO and Chairman of the Board



**GARY
ACKERMAN**

Gaudin Automotive Group
CEO



**CAROL
CLINE ONG**

MDL Group
President



**JOHN
BAILEY**

Bailey Kennedy Esq.
Managing Partner



**RANDY
GARCIA**

The Investment Counsel Company
CEO



**DON
GIANCURSIO**
United Healthcare
CEO



**PAT
MULROY**
Brookings Institution
Fellow



**PETER
THOMAS**
Thomas and Mack Company
Managing Partner



**DR. IKRAM
KHAN**
Quality Care Consultants
President



**DR. JIM
NAVE**
Tropicana Animal Hospital
CEO



**ROBERT
LEWIS**
Lewis Operating Corporation
President



**BILL
NOONAN**
Boyd Gaming Corporation
SVP Industry / Administration
and Government Affairs



**JENNA
MORTON**
Morton Group
Principal



**TODD
SKLAMBERG**
HCA Sunrise and Children's Hospital
CEO



**DUNCAN
LEE**
RDL Investments
President



**KEITH
SMITH**
Boyd Gaming Corporation
CEO



STAFF

**MAUREEN
SCHAFFER**

CBN
Executive Director

UNLV School of Medicine
Chief of Staff



LEGACY DIRECTORS

**DICK
HADDRILL**

**STEVE
HILL**

**BILL
MARTIN**

**HEATHER
MURREN**

**PHILLIP
PECKMAN**

**LARRY
RUVO**

**MICHAEL
SALTMAN**

**LINDY
SCHUMACHER**

**JEFF
SHAW**

**PHIL
SATRE**

**DON
SNYDER**

**DANNY
THOMPSON**

**TERRY
WRIGHT**

**MICHAEL
YACKIRA**

**JIM
ROGERS**

1938 - 2015

**TERRI
LANNI**

1943 - 2011

**DAN
TOWBIN**

1955 - 2009



Chairman Letter

Dear fellow Nevadans,

2016 marked a year of important progress for Nevada. As families, business and government continued to manage through the financial crisis that impacted Nevada so deeply, the Council, now embarking on its 11th year of existence, continued to work with private, public and non-profit partners to identify and execute on solutions that elevate our citizen's quality of life in sustainable ways.

Federal Competitiveness Grants

Coming out of a successful 2015 legislative session, the Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance was formed to improve Nevada's share of federal grants. The Council worked collaboratively through 2016 in a bi-partisan fashion with a number of stakeholders from government, non-profit and the private sector. This resulted in five concrete recommendations for action. Four of these recommendations are now moving forward in this year's legislative session. These actions, as well as the continuing collaborative work of the Council and other stakeholders in the future, could enable Nevada to garner an estimated \$500 million a year in revenue if our state was competitive with other comparable Western States.

CCSD Reorganization Plan

AB 349 became law and will see the CCSD formally decentralize its entire school system for the 2017-18 school year. This entails providing local budget and management control to schools in exchange for academic outcomes in the classroom. In partnership with the inclusion of the weighted student formula, the Council pursued this approach more than 10 years ago in partnership with labor, business, non profit and elected official leaders, and is pleased to see this evolution in thinking for public education in Nevada.

Nevadans for Background Checks

The Question 1 campaign was endorsed by the Council, and we continue to push for the implementation of the law since the passage of the question last November. Similar legislation passed in 18 other states has shown that gun violence significantly drops in those states. Safer communities are stronger communities and we need to implement Question 1 in Nevada.

As I conclude, the mission of the Council is "a better quality of life for all Nevadans." Our issues relate to the progress, sustainability and the wellbeing of the state, and we will continue to work hand in hand with multiple partners in Nevada to accomplish that goal.

In that endeavor, we are grateful and thankful to so many who join with us in our work each year; 2016 has been no different. Our collaborative success is Nevada's success.

Battle Born Onward,

John Ritter
Chairman



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Against Law Enforcement Officers, January 2015 <http://everytown.org/1FpRqkh>
Daniel W. Webster, Jon S. Vernick, and Maria T. Bulzacchelli, "Effects of State-Level Firearm Seller Accountability Policies on Firearm Trafficking,"
Journal of Urban Health 86, no. 4 (July 2009): doi:10.1007/s11524-009-9351-x.
How Many Gun Dealers Are There In Your State? <http://everytown.org/article/how-many-gun-dealers-are-there-in-your-state/>.
Quinnipiac University Poll, Iraq – Getting in was wrong; getting out was right, U.S. voters tell Quinnipiac University National Poll: 92 Percent Back Background Checks for All Gun Buys, July, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1uEedVg>.
Luntz Global, Gun Owners Poll for Mayors Against Illegal Guns, July, 2012, at <http://bit.ly/1n3VqZD>.

Question One

Question 1 was an important ballot initiative for the Council to endorse based on positive community impact safety statistics where similar legislation had passed and was implemented in 18 other states. In those states where this legislation continues to be in effect today, crimes involving handguns in the categories below continues to realize a significant reduction in handgun - related crimes.

Background checks performed by federally licensed firearms dealers are the only systematic way to prevent dangerous people from buying firearms. But a gap in the law allows felons, domestic abusers, and the severely mentally ill to avoid background checks by buying guns from unlicensed sellers — often through anonymous online transactions — who are not required by federal law to conduct checks.



THE NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM (NICS) HAS BLOCKED MORE THAN 2.4 MILLION SALES TO PROHIBITED PURCHASERS SINCE 1998 ...

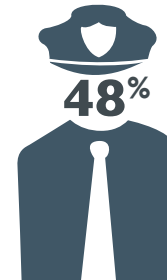
... BUT CRIMINALS EXPLOIT THE UNLICENSED SALES LOOPHOLE BY BUYING GUNS FROM STRANGERS ONLINE THROUGH SITES LIKE ARMSLIST.COM

BACKGROUND CHECKS SAVE LIVES

In the 18 states that go beyond federal law and require background checks on all handgun sales.



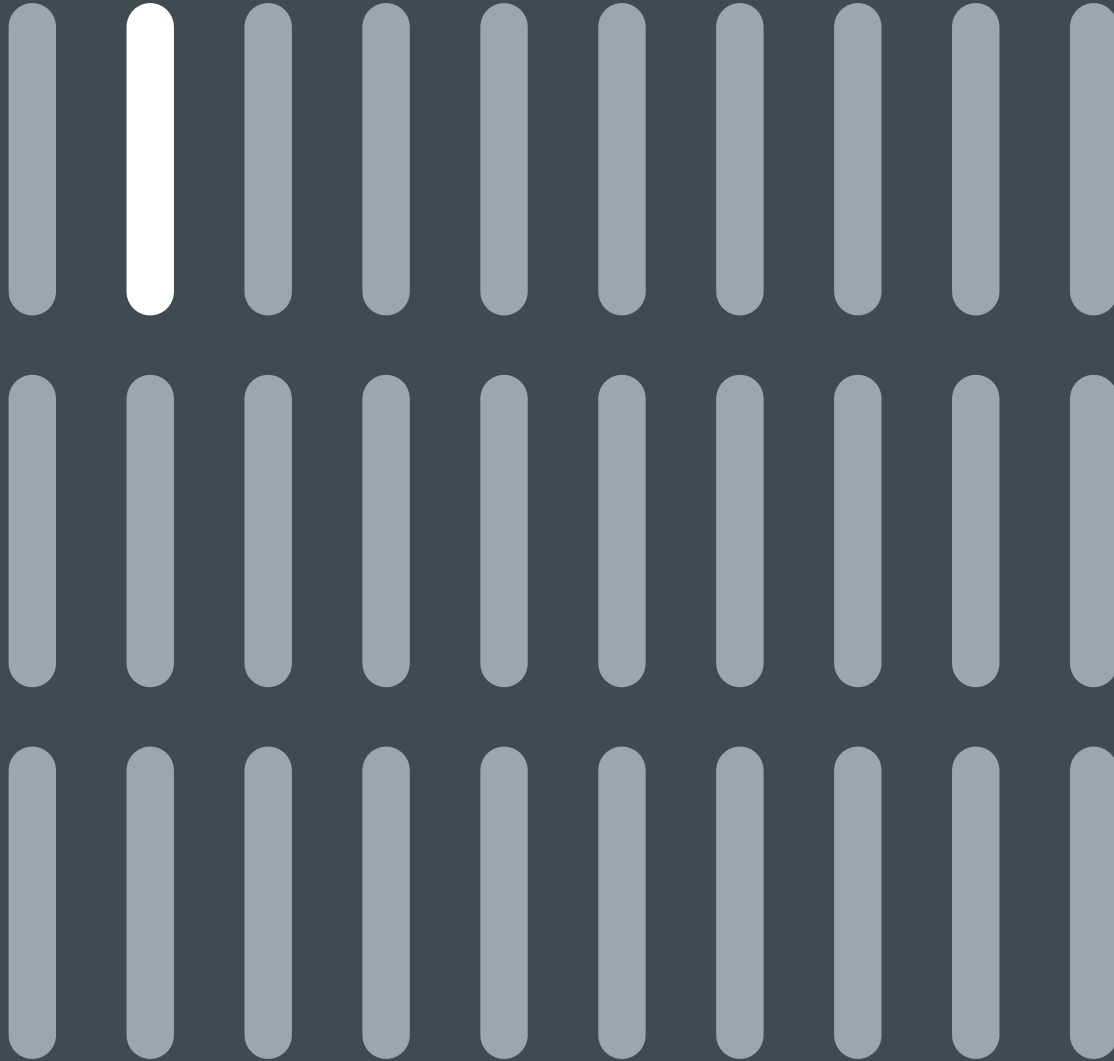
fewer women
are shot to death by
intimate partners.



**fewer law
enforcement officers**
are killed with handguns.



less gun
trafficking.



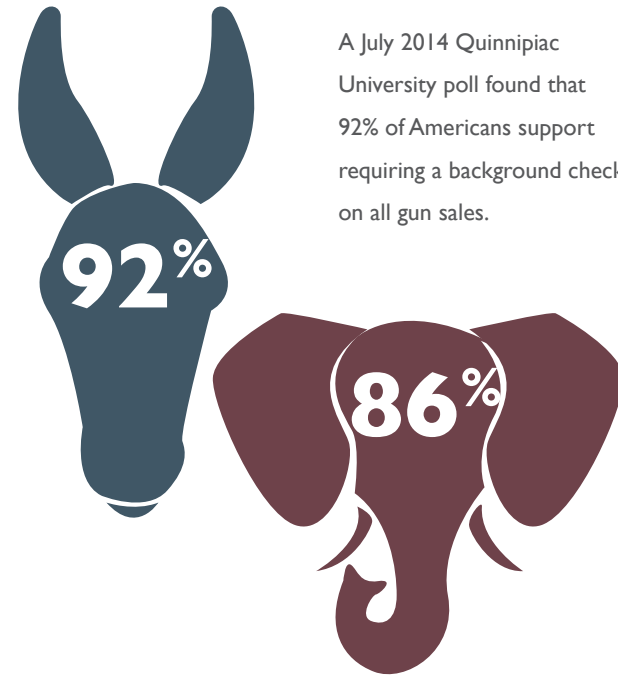
At least one in thirty want-to-buy ads on Armslist have prohibiting criminal records. This is 4 times higher than the rate of prohibited purchasers who try to buy guns from licensed gun dealers.

EASY AND CONVENIENT



Over 91% of NICS checks are completed in 90 seconds or less, and 98.4% of Americans live within 10 miles of a licensed gun dealer.

MOST AMERICANS ARE IN SUPPORT



GUN OWNERS ARE IN SUPPORT



A 2012 survey by Republican pollster Frank Luntz found 82% of gun owners - including 74% of NRA members - support background checks for all gun sales.

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Federal Grants

2016 proved to be a year of extensive progress in the development of the Nevada Grants Advisory Council, established in the 2015 legislative session to prioritize and advise the Governor and legislature on how best to create and grow the federal grants infrastructure for the state of Nevada. The Council is proud and grateful for the partnership of so many within the legislature and outside the greater community to establish these invaluable systems on behalf of Nevada.

For decades Nevada has been among the lowest- often 50th of 50 - performing states in the U.S. in terms of receiving competitive federal grants, despite having some of the highest documented need in the country. In the past five years, however, the State has taken several significant steps toward correcting this unnecessary and harmful imbalance. Under Governor Sandoval's administration and with leadership from the Legislature, Nevada has made many improvements in grant procurement and management, and is building momentum towards maximizing federal grant revenue.

NEVADA'S TOP FIVE STATE AGENCY RECIPIENTS FOR GRANTS

- Health and Human Services
- Employment, Training and Rehabilitation
- Education
- Conservation
- Transportation



PROGRESS

During the past five years the State has made notable progress in securing federal grants, and improving its grant infrastructure.

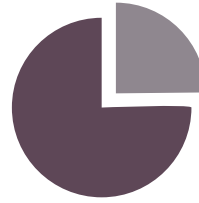
The State is beginning to implement uniform best practices through statewide grant trainings from the Grants Office.

STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED

- Establishing the Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and Management (State Grants Office), a statewide grants office tasked with coordinating and supporting agencies in state and federal grants. The Grants Office has been instrumental in securing tens of millions of dollars in grants for Nevadans.
- In Fiscal Year 2015 alone the office worked with various agencies to secure nearly \$85 million in total grant awards, using a department budget of approximately \$385,000 – a return of roughly \$221 on every \$1 invested.
- Establishing the Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance (Grants Council), a unique council of public, private, and nonprofit leaders who identify barriers and develop solutions to increase federal grant funding. The Grants Council is bringing together leadership from sectors across the state to craft recommendations intended to increase grant revenue streaming into Nevada, thus enhancing programs available to Nevadans.

NEVADA'S PROGRESS FROM THE FEDERAL FUNDS INFORMATION FOR STATES

- Nevada has experienced one of the largest increases in grant awards between FFY 2009-2014. It grew 51.5% where federal spending only grew 21.4% over the same timeframe.
- Nevada ranked #2 for the largest per-capita grants growth in FFY 2014 (43.6% growth).
- Nevada is the only state to rank in the top 10 of population growth, at the same time ranking in the top as largest growth per capital for grant awards.



WHY IMPROVE?

The State's past low rates of federal grants have cost it and its residents hundreds of millions of dollars, and reduced its ability to provide programs and services that improve the quality of life and increase opportunity for many Nevadans.

SECURING NEVADA'S FAIR SHARE OF FEDERAL GRANTS HAS TREMENDOUS TANGIBLE IMPLICATIONS

- Funding much-needed enhancements to programs, projects, and services in the areas of health care, transportation, income security, education, job training, social services, community development, and environmental protection.
- Increasing Nevada's position in per capita grants to 48th – an increase of just one spot – would yield an additional \$258 million in new funding.
- Significantly expanding Nevada's revenue without adding tax burden to its residents and businesses.
- Stimulating economic activity with additional spending. Federal spending averages 19% of states' economic activity, but in Nevada it is only 17.9%. Increasing federal funding - either direct or indirect - will have considerable positive economic impact in the State.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

More work is needed to ensure that Nevada receives an equitable share of federal grant dollars and delivers the highest return on investment for those dollars.

INCREASING INVESTMENTS AND COLLABORATION

- Continue to identify and address structural barriers that limit Nevada's grant applications and awards.
- Build professional and technological grant capacity within State and local governments and nonprofits so there are qualified grant writers and administrators to design, implement and manage competitive grant projects, along with technology solutions to track, manage, and report grant activity and effectiveness.
- Implement an effective and sustainable program that allows Nevada to responsibly meet grants' match fund requirements with in-kind support and/or cash from public and philanthropic sources.
- Have a strong State Grants Office with a statewide presence, making face-to-face connections and building and fostering relationships with public, private, nonprofit and philanthropic entities in an effort to coordinate strong and sustainable programs statewide.
- Support local and regional efforts to increase grant competitiveness and coordination.
- Ensure that federal grant dollars are being equitably distributed statewide, and reaching the residents and communities for whom the dollars are intended.
- Engage and educate a broad coalition of partners and stakeholders to support progress.

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K-12 Education

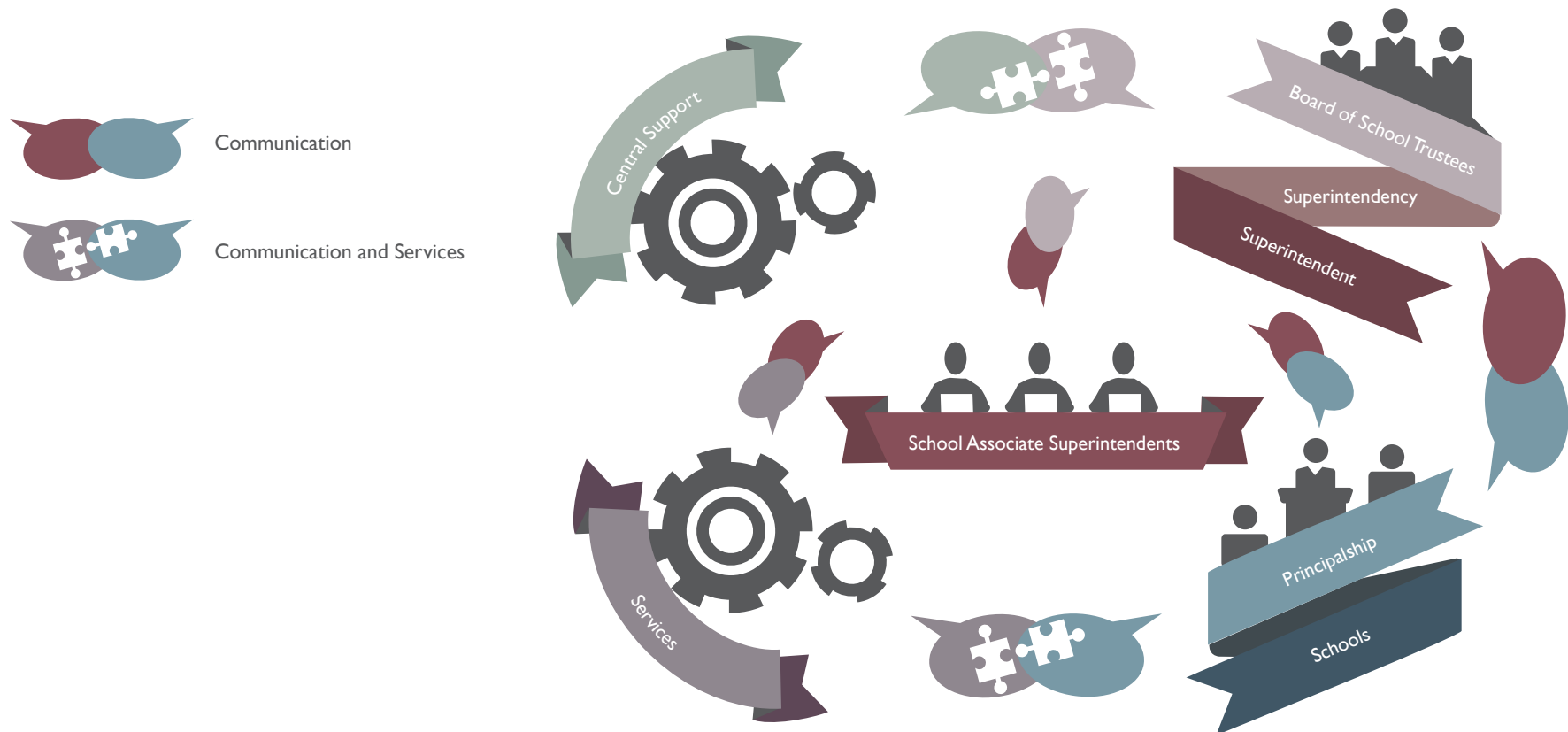
As one of the cornerstone issues for the Council in its founding 2005 year, the codifying of AB349 to state law, The Reorganization Plan, is a defining moment for K-12 education in Clark County. Launching in the 2017-2018 school year, this has become a bi-partisan operational framework for the CCSD. The CCSD and the state's 17 school district's will also be funded on a categorical weighted student formula, another significant positive bi-partisan victory in the formal shift to how Nevada funds public education in the future.

THE CCSD REORGANIZATION NEVADA ASSEMBLY BILL 394 ADDRESSES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT BY:

- Empowering local schools to pursue strategies that are tailored to realities on the ground.
- Bringing more people – especially parents and community leaders – to the table to address issues of student achievement.
- Ensuring resources follow students and their particular needs.
- Ensuring as many resources as possible flow to the local school.

NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Schools receive direction solely from School Associate Superintendents, who also advocate for schools' needs.
- Increased flexibility for decision making and budget decisions.
- Services can be purchased as needed.
- Greater involvement of stakeholders.





CBNonline.org